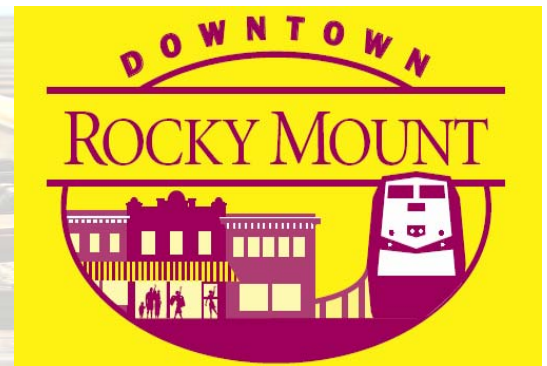


The Ties That Bind

Summer 2006 Volume 1, Issue 4



Saturday, October 14th, 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Downtown Rocky Mount

Special Music Guest - Air Supply 4:30 p.m. - 6:00

Hands on Crafts Festival

The **Downtown Rocky Mount Merchant's Association** hosted their first annual Hands on Crafts Festival on September 8th and 9th, 2006. On Friday, the festival started at 11:00 a.m. and ended at 7:00 p.m. Local artisans filled the 100 block of NW Main Street showing off their handcrafted works. At 5:00 p.m. the downtown was treated to a performance by the Carolina Chocolate Drops, an African-American string band based in the Triangle. Their roots are in the traditional music of the foothills and mountains of North and South Carolina. On the Saturday the artisans were again ready to greet the public and to show off their skills. At 1:00 p.m., the WHIG-TV traveling karaoke stage opened for all who wanted to share their vocal talents with the crowd.

The festival was conceived by the Merchants association as a way of getting people downtown. The Hands on Arts Festival was the second festival hosted this year by the Downtown Merchants Association. Earlier in the year they sponsored Fiesta Latina. Plans are already underway for next years Fiesta Latina. The proposed date for the Fiesta Latina 2007 is June 9, 2007. If you are interested in participating, contact Michael Cook of the Downtown Rocky Mount Merchant's Association at (252) 443-9259.



Carolina Chocolate Drops
performing on Friday.

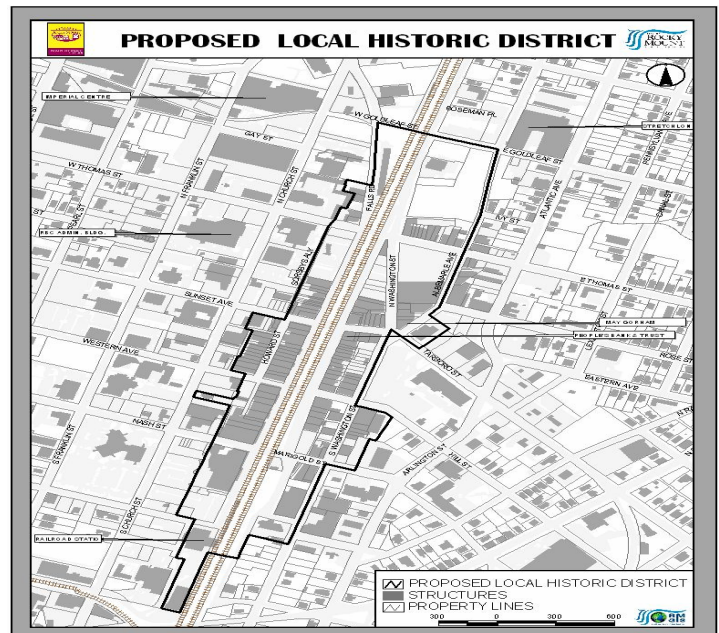
Tar River
Basket Weavers



Proposal to Create a Central City Local

The final steps in the creation of a Rocky Mount Central City Local Historic District (LHD) may be considered by the City Council as early as October 9th. The plan has received support from the Central City Revitalization Panel, the Rocky Mount Historic Preservation Commission (HPC), State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the Rocky Mount Planning Board.

Local historic designation is an overlay zoning district. A special design review process for the area requires a Certificate of Appropriateness (CoA) from the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC.) This process ensures that proposed work is compatible with the nature of the historic property and contributes to the character of the historic district as a whole.



Old Post Office Gets New Life

In August, the Self-Help Credit Union purchased the Old Post Office located at 200 Tarboro Street. In the spring, Self-Help completed their historic rehabilitation of the People's Bank Building at Main and Tarboro Streets. The group is searching for an anchor tenant before the \$3+ Million Post Office renovation can begin. For more information about either project contact Malcolm White at (919) 956-4480.

Davis Furniture before renovation.



Davis Furniture with 3rd floor windows repaired and looking out on Main Street. Work is proceeding on the 2nd floor Main Street windows.



Gin-Lily Hair Studio Voted Best

Gin-Lily Hair Studio at 114 NW Main Street has won the best hair salon in the Rocky Mount Telegram Reader's Choice Award. Gin-Lily Hair Studio opened May 23, 2006. Many locals know this location as the old Rocky Mount Floral Company. The building is owned by Darin and Elizabeth Scott, who renovated the building and brought it back to life.

It is wonderful to see a thriving business in a historically renovated building. This is surely a sign of what is to come to our downtown.

Congratulations Gin-Lily!

Ian Kipp, Downtown Development Manager

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Ken Redding

1970-2006

Ken Redding, former owner of Kay's Restaurant passed away in July. Ken grew up in Rocky Mount and was always active in the downtown.

The downtown community is deeply saddened by this loss. Plans for a memorial project for Ken, in the downtown he loved, are being discussed.

The Welcome Corner:

Downtown Rocky Mount welcomes Ron and Hilary Vetere. The Vetere's, originally from Arlington, Virginia, live in Kill Devil Hills. They plan to move into their loft apartment at 130 Howard Street once the building rehabilitation is completed. Their Home Improvement business will occupy the downstairs.

They also purchased 218, 220 and 222 SW Main Street and plan to renovate them as a mix of residential and commercial, as well. Be on the look out for the removal of the unattractive faceplate at the 222 address.

Streetscape Plan Moves Forward

The City of Rocky Mount received 10 submissions in August to a Request for Proposals (RFP) from companies to create the Downtown Urban Design Plan or Streetscape. The city has short-listed three firms and expects to recommend one to the City Council by November. The final plan will be the basis of a \$5+ million project which includes new streets, sidewalks, lighting, and other public streetscape amenities. The plan will also make improvements to bike and pedestrian access and assess traffic flow improvements in preparation for the closing of the Main Street grade crossing at Nash/Marigold Street. The design work is slated to be done next summer, and construction should begin in the fall of 2007.

Office Space Available for Rent

153 Howard Street: 520 square feet, completely renovated, single room, open floor plan. Rent is \$550. per month. Utilities and security system are included in rent. Great for a small business/office space.

Contact Jessica or Michael Smith: 314-5365